



Making Tracks

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Layout: Denise Lehmann

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63112
For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

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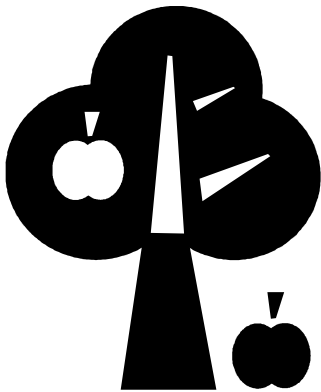
Conservation in the Park

Friday 10 a.m – 11:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Come learn what function conservation has in Forest Park. Also, find out what important part the Missouri Department of Conservation has played and continues to play in this urban landscape. We will take a walk over to the hatcheries and take a peek in the MDC Forest Park Office. Meet at the Forest Park Visitor Center. *Naturalist: Jamaica Duane* (Reservations begin September 1.)

30

Happy Birthday, Johnny Appleseed

Saturday 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(Ages 3–7) Great things can come from little seeds. Johnny Appleseed was a champion for planting apple trees. Come to Johnny’s party and learn about his love of trees through stories, crafts and games. Help us celebrate this wonderful American hero! *Volunteer Naturalist: Kathy Schroeder* (Reservations begin September 16.)





Making Tracks

Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

September 2006 Volume 06, Number 09



What’s New With Wildlife In Missouri?

By Tom Meister, Wildlife Damage Biologist

I’m often approached by people wanting information on animals that we don’t see very often, such as foxes and otters. Sure, we all have squirrels and often see turtles and amphibians, but did you know that Missouri also has some exotic visitors such as black bears? The diversity of Missouri wildlife is very dynamic and continuously changes as habitats improve or decline — animal species are introduced and as species expand their range. In other words, some are just visiting and others kind of like it here in Missouri, so we’ll likely be seeing more of them. Here’s a brief summary of animals on the move:

Animals that are just visiting:

Wolf

For years, we have believed that there were no wild wolves in Missouri. We can’t say that anymore, though the likelihood of seeing a wolf here still is extremely small.

A Grundy County man, returning from bow hunting for deer Oct. 23, 2001, spied what he thought was a coyote peering into his sheep pen. Fearing for the safety of his livestock, he shot and killed the animal. Then he discovered the “coyote” was wearing an ear tag and a radio collar.

The wolf killed here was a 2 1/2-year-old male weighing 80 pounds. Michigan biologists tracked it for nine months after capturing and tagging it in July 1999. After that, biologists lost track of the animal. Now they know why. It was on a 600-mile road trip.

Mountain Lion

We have had only a handful of confirmed mountain lions in Missouri, despite hundreds and hundreds of reports. There have been eight confirmed mountain lions since 1994. One of these was hit by a car near downtown Kansas City in 2002, and another in 2003 near Fulton.

Missing from Missouri is the physical evidence that is left by a viable, breeding population of mountain lions. In the area of every documented population in the U.S., biologists are able to locate numerous tracks, prey kills, scrapes (made when lions scent-mark their territories), and photos, which are often available from the many motion-detecting game cameras that hunters use to monitor trails. Also, frequent mountain lion road-kills turn up, of all ages and of both sexes, when there is an established population.

Moose

There have been many confirmed sightings of moose over the past 30 years. They all have been young bulls migrating south from Minnesota.

(Continued on page 7)

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

16 Scout Discovery Table: Poisonous & Venomous Things

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Scouts) Do you know the difference between “poisonous” and “venomous”? How many different venomous snakes are there in Missouri? Can you identify poison ivy? What spider has a fiddle on its back? Learn the answers to these questions and many more. **Wolves:** Outdoor Adventure Elective 18g; **Webelos:** Naturalist #6; **Juniors:** Wildlife #5; Plants and Animals #9. *Volunteer Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler* (No reservations required.)



18 Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales

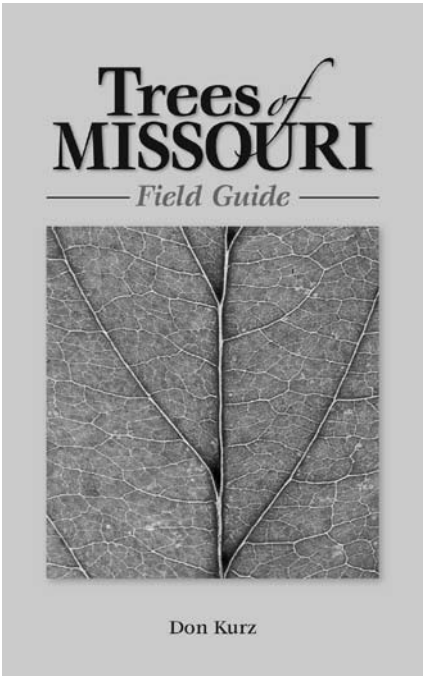
Monday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Some animals would be helpless without paws or claws. Which birds move by walking or hopping? Which insect keeps its tail folded and hooked beneath its body? (When it releases its tail: sprong!) What makes a damselfly swim? Discover the answers to these questions and more! *Volunteer Naturalist: Margaret Sutter McGregor* (Reservations begin September 5.)

28 No-Pucker Persimmons

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(Ages 14 & up) Indulge yourself with the taste of Missouri’s native treat, the persimmon. Will the fruit be ripe enough to eat before a frost? If the lowest branches are 10 feet off the ground, how will we select the edible fruit without climbing? How many cookies can be made from one cup of pulp? Will the possums leave any fruit for us? Join us for an evening of culinary discovery. *Volunteer Naturalist: Karen Staloch* (Reservations begin September 14.)

30 Clark Hike

Saturday 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
(Adults) Come out and join us for a wonderful 5.3-mile hike on the Clark Trail at Weldon Spring Conservation Area. We will be looking for early fall colors and migrating hawks. The bluffs along the Missouri River give the hawks some excellent thermals to gain altitude during their southward migration in fall. Learn how migrating hawks conserve their energy to accomplish their amazing journey to the warmer climates for the winter months. *Volunteer Naturalist: Marvin Staloch* (Reservations begin September 15.)



Nature Shop Special

September and October

20% off

Based on Don Kurz’s original *Trees of Missouri*, this concise, easy-to-carry field guide will help you identify trees in your yard, neighborhood or natural area. 174 species are described, with visual organization of species by leaf arrangement and shape. Easy-to-understand descriptions, range maps and full-color illustrations add to the guide’s appeal.

\$6.00 after discount

Making Tracks
St. Louis Region Newsletter

(Continued from page 1)

Animals that are here to stay:

Armadillo

They were first sighted in southern Missouri in 1980, having made their way north from Texas and Oklahoma. Armadillos have been able to survive in Missouri because of the milder winters we have had in recent years. They do not hibernate and if we were to have a harsher winter we may see their migration move southward

Nutria

Nutria were brought to Louisiana from South America for fur farming. The nutria escaped in 1940 by burrowing out of pens and climbing over fences damaged by a hurricane and have expanded their range northward ever since. Because nutria have extended their range into southeastern Missouri and are often considered a nuisance animal, they can now be trapped during the entire trapping season from Nov. 15 through March 31.

Black Bear

By the 1840s black bears were rare in north Missouri, and by 1894 were reported to be almost extinct in the Ozarks. Bear sightings became increasingly rare in Missouri by the 1950s, however, it was generally believed that they remained in portions of the Ozarks.

Between 1959 and 1967, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission captured 254 black bears in Minnesota and Manitoba and released them in the Ozark and Ouachita mountains of western Arkansas. Since the initiation of Arkansas’ program, black bear sightings have become more numerous in Missouri.

Although the black bear is currently listed as rare in Missouri, there is evidence of a few female bears and their cubs residing in the state, based on scattered sightings.

What’s not here:

Black Panthers and MoMo

Interestingly, news about black panthers and their sightings are included in a broad category of cryptozoology, which is the research of legendary or “hidden animals” such as Bigfoot (MoMo) and the Loch Ness monster.

Though a popular myth, black panthers do not exist in the wild in North America. A black panther is a melanistic version of a large cat, usually an African leopard or a jaguar. These can sometimes be seen in zoos. Melanistic refers to the unusual black coloration produced by a hereditary, genetic mutation. There has never been a black mountain lion documented anywhere.

For more information, please visit our website to become familiar with Missouri animals and those just passing through. Log onto www.mdc.mo.gov.

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

13 Toddling into Nature: Leaf Art Journals
Wednesday 11 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 3-6) Leaves are nature’s works of art! Come and learn the year-long story of leaves and discover how you can make your own art from the falling leaves. We will be going on a short hike as we hunt for leaves to include in our art journals. *Naturalist: Angela Pierce* (Reservations begin August 29.)

15 Fun with Pawpaws
Friday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Families) Pickin’ up pawpaws, puttin’ ‘em in your pocket, Way down yonder in the pawpaw patch.... If this sounds like fun to you, then join us as we celebrate pawpaws. We will learn about the history of pawpaws, visit the pawpaw patch, and make some delicious treats from Missouri’s own “banana.” *Naturalist: Angela Pierce* (Reservations begin September 1.)

21 Cave Exploration
Thursday 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
(Ages 7-13) Enter the underground world of Rockwoods Cave! Learn about a cave ecosystem and the importance wildlife plays in it. This hands-on exploration requires crawling on your stomach for several feet. Wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt and bring a flashlight. Helmets will be provided. Program is limited to 25 participants. *Naturalist: Nick Davis* (Reservations begin September 7.)

22 Wild About Grapes
Friday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 8 & up) Join us as we delve into Missouri’s wild grapes. We’ll show you how to identify them, how to identify their poisonous look-alike, and try your hand at making a delicious jelly. We will have samples and recipes of other delectables you can make from this delicious wild edible. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker* (Registration begin September 8.)

23 Fall Flora and Fruit
Saturday 8 a.m – 1 p.m.
(Adults) Join us on an investigative 2-mile hike through an Ozark forest to discover the rich abundance of nature’s fall flora and delicious fruits. We will find some of nature’s best visual and culinary treats. *Volunteer Naturalist: Karen Staloch* (Registration begins September 8.)



PRAIRIE DAY
Saturday, September 9, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. the Missouri Department of Conservation will co-sponsor **Prairie Day** with Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit, MO. The event takes place in and around the Reserve’s 250-acre tallgrass prairie.
A variety of activities will portray our prairie heritage. Take a naturalist led hike through the prairie, play pioneer games, throw a tomahawk, listen to music and stories, and watch any number of craft demonstrations. Chat with living history characters and admire or even hold some live critters. Check out the teepee and sod house. Buy some prairie plants and seeds, and munch on buffalo burgers, homemade baked goods and more.
Shaw Nature Reserve is 30 miles west of St. Louis off I-44 at Gray Summit exit # 253. Watch for signs. Admission: \$3 adults, members, passholders and children 12 and under are free. For information call 636-451-3512 Ext. 6075.

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

9 Spider Sniff
*Saturday 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
8 p.m. – 9 p.m.*
(All Ages) Whether you fear them or love them, come learn about our friends with eight legs! You will even be able to spot them from 40 feet away! Please bring a flashlight and a sense of adventure to become a true spider sniffer. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid* (Reservations begin August 26.)



21 Discovering the Prairie
Thursday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 7–15) Can you imagine standing in a “sea of grass” taller than you are? Come and explore the prairie! We will take a walk through the prairie to discover the plants, animals, birds and insects that make their homes in this ecosystem and learn what special adaptations make it possible for them to live here. We will learn to identify some of the native grasses, and we will create our own discovery journal to record our experiences and impressions just as Laura Ingalls Wilder did in *Little House on the Prairie*. *Volunteer Naturalist: Pat Behle* (Reservations begin September 7.)

30 Discover the Treasure Bike Hike
Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 12 & up) Join us for a leisurely bike ride through Columbia Bottom to discover the many treasures it has to offer. Participants will learn about the mosaic of floodplain habitats that make up Columbia Bottom. To participate, you must be able to bike 10 miles. Bike helmets are required for this program. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lena Dowers* (Reservations begin September 16.)



14 Babes in the Woods
Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
(Ages 0–3) It’s never too early to begin exploring nature! This month we’ll check out the leaves, trees and animals that live in them. Join us for a stroller walk and together we will use our senses to discover our natural environment. Older siblings are also welcome. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid* (Reservations begin August 31.)

A Look Ahead!
Looking for a fun, fall family alternative to the ghosts and goblins of Halloween? Watch for Fall Family Fun in next month's Making Tracks.

30 Happy Birthday, Johnny Appleseed
Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3–7) Great things can come from little seeds. Johnny Appleseed was a champion for planting apple seeds. Come to Johnny’s party and learn about his love of trees through stories, crafts and games. Help us celebrate this wonderful American hero! *Volunteer Naturalist: Kathy Schroeder* (Reservations begin September 16.)

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

2

Scout Discovery Table: (Self-guided exhibit) Bird Identification and Flyways

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) Discover the wonders of Missouri birds and the location of their flyways while working on badges. Activities are designed for Junior Girl Scouts, Cub Wolves and Webelos. **Juniors** can work on Let’s Get Outdoors: Wildlife 3 and 8. **Webelos** can work on Outdoor Group: Naturalist 4-6. **Wolves** can work on Birds: Elective 13d. All are welcome and encouraged to check it out! *Staff Naturalist: David Bradford* (No reservations necessary.)



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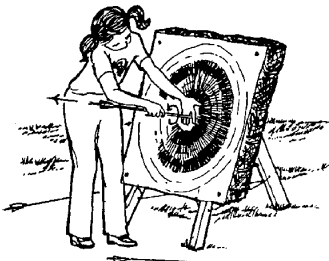
Hiking at Powder Valley

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) We will hike Broken Ridge Trail to observe birds, trees and wildflowers. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman* (Reservations begin August 23.)

15

Night Hike

Friday 8 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(Ages 7 & up) One of the greatest fears is the fear of the unknown. One of the greatest unknowns is the woods at night. All is shrouded by darkness and strange sounds are haunting. But no need to be afraid, a little careful observation will reveal that creatures in the night are just trying to survive, not to scare. So bring your flashlight for this hike on the Hickory Ridge Trail to gain a new perspective on the woods of Powder Valley. *Staff Naturalist: Kevin McCarthy* (Reservations begin August 24.)



16

Beginning Archery at Henges

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 10 & up) Ready, aim, fire! Come and learn the basics of safe archery and practice your skills in an open field with stationary targets. All equipment will be provided. The program will be held at Jay Henges Range and Outdoor Education Center, which is located at Highway 44 and Beaumont Antire Road. *Staff Naturalist: Amy Anderson* (Reservations begin August 24.)

HOMESCHOOL

19


How About Those Salamanders!

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 6-10) Salamanders and other amphibians are Missouri’s original double agents. So where do they come from; where do they go for the winter? In the classroom we will explore their adaptations for survival. Then we will hike to a pond to do some collecting to see what we can find. *Staff Naturalist: David Bradford* (Reservations begin September 5.)

20

Hiking at Powder Valley

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) We will hike Hickory Ridge Trail to see what trees, birds and wildlife are there. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman* (Reservations begin September 6.)



CHARLES GENTRY

Charlie Gentry died on May 23, 2006. Charlie was a Volunteer Naturalist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, in the volunteer class of 1999, at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. Charlie grew up in Kansas City, Mo. He was an Eagle Scout, earned varsity letters in football, track and basketball and, following high school, received an athletic scholarship to the University of Missouri. He moved to Kirkwood in 1957 and went into the insurance business. Charlie was actively involved in civic activities and was a valuable member of the Volunteer Naturalist program at Powder Valley. Charlie worked regular shifts at the front desk and enjoyed offering fishing programs for children in the summer. Charlie’s friendship and dedication to conservation will be greatly missed.



Now available in the gift shop

Now in its third edition, this comprehensive guide includes more than 700 miles of foot, bicycle and equestrian trails on 136 conservation areas statewide. Features include improved maps and facility information, points of historical and geological interest, and flora and fauna you may encounter along the way. Keep it in your glove compartment and be ready to hike wherever you travel in Missouri. 102 pages.

\$5.00

September Nature Films

*Presented mainly on Saturdays and Sundays
(check individual week’s entries)*

September 2, 3 & 4

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eyewitness: Plant
Eyewitness: Insect
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Prairies:
Missouri’s Tallgrass Prairie: An American Original
Life Science Nature Series: Prairie Wildlife Vol. 1 No. 6
Waterfowl & Wetlands II

September 9 & 10

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eyewitness: Mammal
How Animals Move
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Back to the Wild
Time Shadow: Encounter with the Whitetail
Hunting Safety & Equipment
Helping Endangered Species: Makes Dollars & Sense

September 16 & 17

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eyewitness: Pond and River
Eyewitness: Fish
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Missouri Outdoors TV Story Collections: DVD Set
Volume 10: Rivers & Streams

September 23 & 24

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eyewitness: Rock & Mineral
I Dig Fossils
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Missouri Outdoors TV Story Collections: DVD Set
Volume 12: Wildlife Art
Fishing: Lures, Rods & Other Gear
Natural Adventures Close to Home: St. Louis (Revised)
Natural Adventures Close to Home: Springfield
Natural Adventures Close to Home: Kansas City

September 30 & October 1

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
J(ust) K(iddin’) A(round) 1999 - 12
Magic School Bus: Gets Planted
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Forestry Research & Practices III
Fall Color: Trees of the Eastern Forests
Fifty Years with Smokey Bear
Forests for the Future
Creating an Urban Oasis

Shown in the Auditorium
Free of Charge
Groups Welcome!
Children’s films: 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
& 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
All Ages films: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
& 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Films are subject to change.
Times are approximate.
(CC) denotes those films that are closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.
No Reservations Required

Powder Valley
Volunteer Milestones

Audrey Kadlek.....2000 hours